

Community History

The Pennsylvania State Archives offers research opportunities for those interested in the study of ethnic and racial groups and partners with the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Notable holdings include:

- The first state law in the U.S. to abolish slavery
- Muster rolls for the United States Colored Troops in the American Civil War
- Works Progress Administration projects listing
- Ethnic studies and oral history collections



ECW Camp in Rothrock State Forest, Mifflin County, 1933.

Genealogical Resources

The Archives holds a broad range of sources that help to document family history. Frequently consulted materials include:

- Almost 17,000 rolls of county records on microfilm—wills, deeds, tax records, etc.
- Military records from the French and Indian War to the Vietnam War
- Pension records for the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812
- Philadelphia ships' lists of German passengers (1727–1808)
- Colonial naturalizations (1740–1773)
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court naturalizations (1794–1906)
- Birth and death records (1852–1854, 1893–1906)
- Marriage records (1742–1762, 1852–1854, 1885, and thereafter)
- Federal population census on microfilms and soundexes (1790–1930)
- U.S. Direct Tax of 1798, also known as the Glass Tax
- Pennsylvania Septennial Censuses (1779–1821)
- Pennsylvania Farm Censuses (1924, 1927)
- State land records including warrants, surveys, and patents (1667–2000)
- State penitentiary records (1829–1972)
- Occupational records for coal miners, doctors, and teachers
- Maps
- Family papers



WWI veteran Bob Hoffman, founder of York Barbell Company.

Copying and Research Services

The Pennsylvania State Archives offers reproduction services in several formats such as photocopies, digital scans, and microfilm. The Archives reserves the right to determine the appropriate method for producing copies of items in its custody.

Limited research services are available for those who cannot travel to Harrisburg. Staff will search only original records held by the Archives. This reference service does not apply to the microfilms of county records, federal censuses, or materials held by other institutions. All research fees are nonrefundable.

Current prices and ordering information are found on the PHMC Web site, or obtained by telephone or e-mail. Payment is required in advance for copying and other research services.

Pennsylvania State Archives

350 North Street • Harrisburg, PA 17120-0090
(717) 783-3281

Research Hours

Wednesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday (microfilm use only), 9:00 a.m. to noon, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday-Tuesday, Saturday after Thanksgiving, and state holidays. Please phone before visiting to check current hours. Admission is free. No appointment is required except when using special media or unprocessed or restricted holdings.

Location

Southeast corner of Third and Forster Streets, adjacent to The State Museum of Pennsylvania. Enter at gates facing Third Street. Visit our Web site for directions.

Parking

Metered street parking and garages are nearby. Street parking is free on Saturday.

Pennsylvania Trails of History™

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has blazed four special-interest trails leading to some of Pennsylvania's most historic sites.

Visit www.phmc.state.pa.us and begin your journey today.



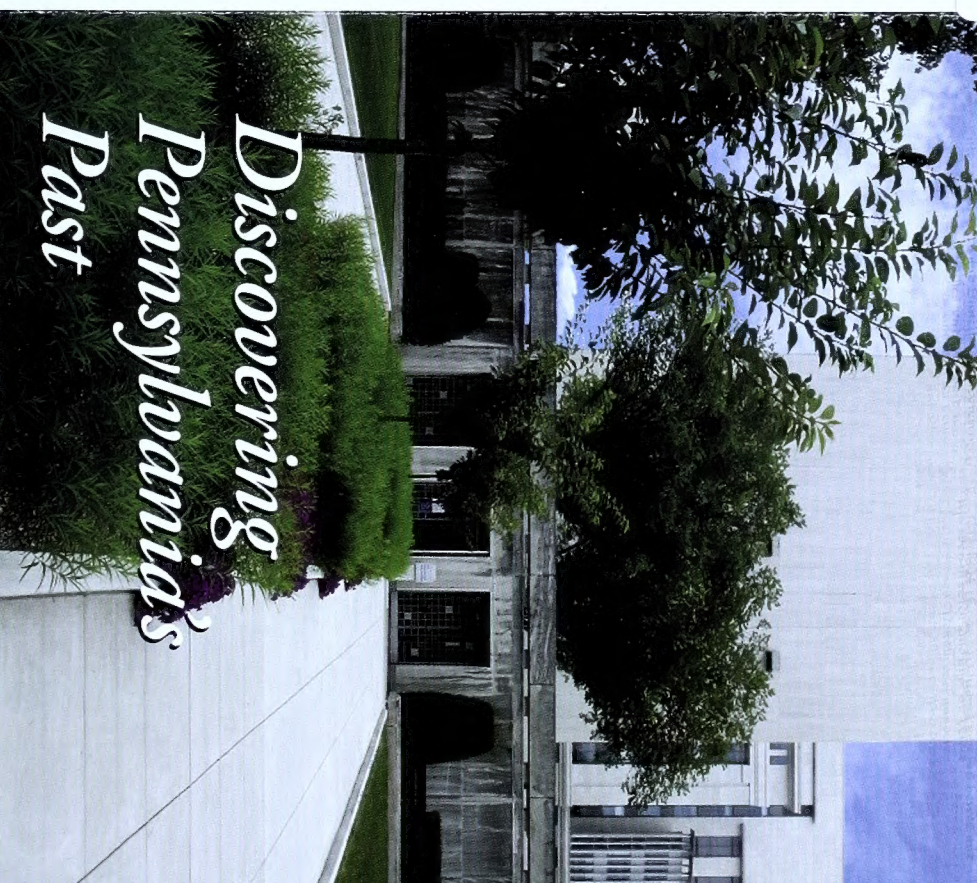
Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

Edward G. Rendell, Governor
Wayne Spilove, Chairman
Barbara Franco, Executive Director
David Haury, State Archivist
www.phmc.state.pa.us

The Pennsylvania State Archives



Discovering
Pennsylvania's
Past





Whether exploring Pennsylvania's documentary heritage or learning about your family's past, you'll discover a wealth of resources at the Pennsylvania State Archives. Established in 1903 as an administrative unit of the Pennsylvania State Library, the State Archives was combined with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1945 to form the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

The primary function of the State Archives is to acquire, preserve, and make available for study, the historical public records of the Commonwealth. The State Archives also acquires select private papers relevant to Pennsylvania history.

State Archives Web Resources

The PHMC Web site provides topical research guides, container or folder listings of collections, digital copies of some records and indexes, and information about Archives policies and fees. You can access these Web resources by visiting www.phmc.state.pa.us and selecting **PA State Archives** in the left column.



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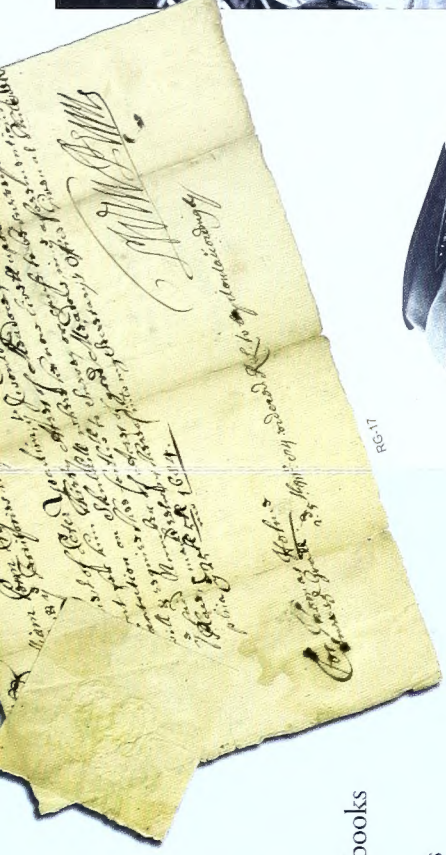
(Top) President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Harrisburg, 1936.
(Bottom) Judge Genevieve Blatt.

State Land Records

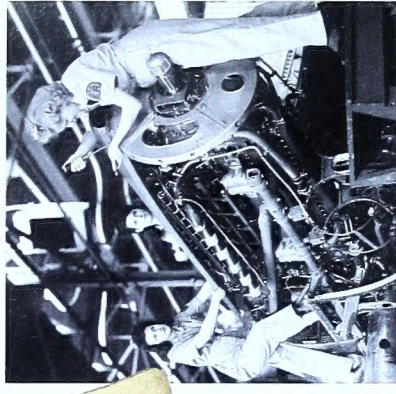
The state land records (1667–2000) document the original purchases of land from the Penn family and the Commonwealth. They include:

- Purchases from William Penn
- Land warrants and applications
- Original surveys and copied survey books
- Patent books
- Warrant registers and patent indexes
- Warrantee maps for about 30% of Pennsylvania's townships
- Donation lands papers – grants to Pennsylvania Line veterans of the Revolutionary War
- Virginia claims
- Connecticut claimants files
- Land office map collection

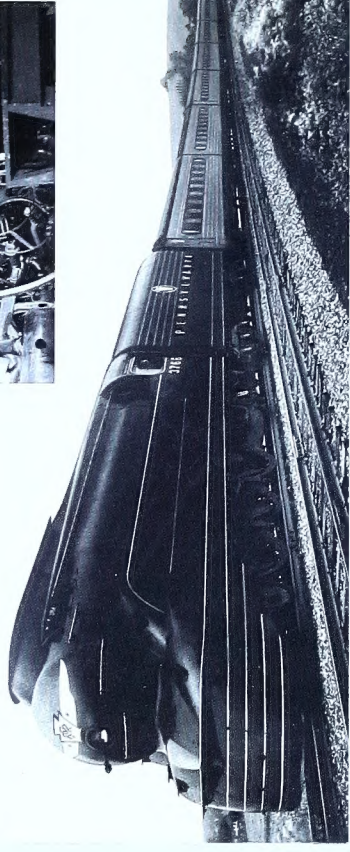
Detailed information about the land records, digital images of many of the indexes, and more frequently used documents in the State Archives can be found on the PHMC Web site.



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(Top left) 1684 William Penn land warrant.
(Top right) Women refurbishing airplane engines during WWII. (Above) Pennsylvania Railroad's "Broadway Limited," 1938.

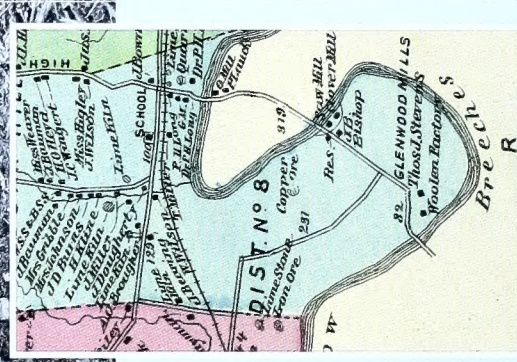
Transportation and Industrial Records

- State road and turnpike maps (1706–1873)
- Port of Philadelphia records (1728–1982)
- Cornwall Furnace records (1757–1940)
- Internal improvements files (1777–1902)
- Pine Grove Furnace records (1785–1914)
- Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company records (1792–1978)
- Pennsylvania Main Line Canal records (1816–1868)
- Fall Brook Railroad and Coal Company records (1819–1938)
- Baldwin Locomotive Works records (1834–1962)
- Pennsylvania Railroad records (1835–1968)
- Lehigh Valley Railroad records (1849–1962)
- Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission records (1882–1990)
- Mine accident registers (1899–1975)
- Industrial Board minutes (1914–1986)
- Department of Highways photographs (1907–1966)



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(Above) Logging near Leetonia, Tioga County.
(Right) Upper Allen Township in 1872, Atlas of Cumberland County.



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Special Media

The Archives collections include non-textual materials from public and private sources:

- 3,400 land office drafts and maps
- Aerial photographs (1937–1940)
- Postcards for all counties
- Over 500 posters
- 600 oral history recordings
- Motion picture films
- Philadelphia Commercial Museum photograph collection
- Photographs, negatives, and slides from various state agencies



Pennsylvania coal miners drilling in the 1930s.

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